

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DECEMBER 12, 2006**

**BY COURT ORDER KRIS KRINGLE IS BACK**

**(A Third Time Offender)**

"I liked it best when the balif [sic] made everybody stand up and when they dumped all of the male [sic] on the judges [sic] desk."

By Court decree, children throughout the State will be returning to the Delaware Superior Court to witness the Third Annual reenactment of the courtroom scene of the Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street. The event is a joint project of the Courts and the Delaware State Bar Association's Arts Committee. The hearings will begin the week of December 12 and will continue throughout the week in all three counties. The schedule is as follows: December 12, 2006 – Sussex County Courthouse on The Circle in Georgetown – 9 a.m.; 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; December 13, 2006 – Kent County Courthouse, on The Green in Dover – 9 a.m.; 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; December 14 and 15, 2006, New Castle County Courthouse, 500 N. King Street, Wilmington – 9 a.m.; 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Last year Kris Kringle managed to win each of the 12 competency hearings. "If the Court orders it, I'm ready to do it again" said Kringle. And he is not the only one who is ready. Former Attorney General M. Jane Brady, now Superior Court Judge, intends to prosecute the case herself, "I just have to see this through myself", she said. "I want to make very sure that Kris Kringle has the same opportunity he did last year." By "opportunity", Judge Brady means a chance to meet the children. More than 2000 public and private school children will visit one of the Delaware Courtrooms and experience a trial setting in this reenactment. Justice Henry duPont Ridgely will be sitting in the Superior Court by designation. This holiday favorite is wonderfully rewarding for all and serves as a civics' lesson for school children, using real lawyers, a real judge and other legal officials. The event is being presented with permission of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox.

Director Tom Russo, Jr., boasts of an all star cast of lawyers and judges, including child actress, Madeline Hughes, who portrays Attorney General Brady's daughter. Of course, the real star of the day is Kris Kringle. This white bearded jolly gentleman is so much the epitome of Santa Clause, it is difficult to admit he is really Daniel Slipetsky of Bear Delaware. Dan, with a doctorate in education, has professionally been Kris Kringle for a number of years. You have seen him at Concord Mall, Christiana Mall and in parades. There has even been a Santa sighting of Dan lighting the Christmas tree in Historic New Castle.

The Miracle Team has been expanded during the last three years:

**The Judge:** Justice Henry duPont Ridgely who has incredible control of his courtroom, which is particularly impressive when you consider it is filled with 150 - 200 children, ages 8 through 12. His script, from 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox's original film, has been expanded to include many thing with are Delawaresque, including the role of the jury and the importance of the legal system to all Delawareans.

**The Prosecutor:** The Honorable M. Jane Brady is seriously committed to educating school children about the law and the courts. It is particularly noteworthy Judge Brady takes on this role, year after year, knowing she is going to lose. This is a difficult task for a former trial lawyer.

**Defense Counsel:** For the first two years, Vincent J. Poppiti has done an admirable job of defending Kris Kringle. He has twenty-four wins to his credit. A conflict keeps him from twelve

well expected victories this year. As a result, his second chair, Richard K. Herrmann has promised to maintain his record.

Kris Kringle: Daniel Slipetsky, mentioned above, fills each audience of wide eyed children with hope and anticipation. By the time the hearing is concluded, everyone, child and adult, know there really a Santa Clause and it is this man. Kris can truly take over a room with his presence.

Madeline Brady: The little girl, who portrays Judge Brady's daughter, is Madeline Hughes, a wonderful actress, who joined the Miracle Team from the Delaware Children's Theater.

Dr. Westover: The State Psychiatrist, morphs as he testifies up and down the State. Starting as The Honorable Robert B. Young in Dover and Georgetown, by the time he is in Wilmington, he looks very much like Warren B. Burt.

Mr. Macy: Also changes his appearance throughout the State. He appears to be our Director, Tom Russo in Dover and Georgetown. In Wilmington, he becomes Thomas J. Horan.

The Postmaster: Eric Robbins, the DSBA's Director of Information and Technology has been drafted for this role, adding new ideas for delivering Santa's mail.

This entire effort is supported by the Administrative Office of the Courts; Franny Haney is responsible of all communication and coordination with the many participating schools, the capitol police and the press.

As you can see, the DSBA and the courts have joined forces to begin the legal education process at an early age. With the with permission of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, each year 2000 children learn about the legal process in a courtroom and in a positive way. We're giving back. We hope the tradition continues. WE BELIEVE, do you?

**CAMERAS ARE NOT ALLOWED DURING THE LIVE PERFORMANCE BUT PHOTOS MAY  
BE TAKEN BEFORE AND AFTER THE PERFORMANCE.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT FRANNY HANEY**

**AT 302-255-0093 OR BY CELL AT 302-668-7033**